

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-01 OMB-01 ITC-01
SP-02 ICA-20 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
INR-10 IO-14 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-07
TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 /106 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OT/GCP:MBAAS/CMAS
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AF/EPS:DMCCLELLAN (INFO)

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-----004148 180535Z /23

R 171747Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

UNCLAS STATE 125536

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: GSP - CERTIFYING AUTHORITY

REF: STATE 046906

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES PROBLEM EMBASSY HAS IN WORKING WITH SOMALI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND SOMALI GOVERNMENT ON GSP CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS. U.S. GSP PROGRAM, HOWEVER, IS OFTEN CRITICIZED FOR LACK OF BENEFITS TO LDCS AND WE HAVE MADE COMMITMENTS IN UNCTAD AND OTHER FORA TO ATTEMPT TO ASSIST LDCS IN OBTAINING SHARE OF GSP BENEFITS.

2. IN REGARD TO CASE DESCRIBED IN REFTEL, U.S. IMPORTER CLAIMED TO HAVE ATTEMPTED TO GET CORRECT FORM A FROM SOMALIA, BUT HAS BEEN TOLD THAT SOMALIA INSISTS THAT ITS OWN LOCALLY PRINTED FORM BE ACCEPTED SINCE IT CANNOT AFFORD
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FOREIGN EXCHANGE NEEDED TO PROCURE FORMS FROM ABROAD. SOMALIA MAY PRODUCE FORM LOCALLY, BUT IF IT DOES SO, FORM MUST BE SAME AS FORM APPROVED INTERNATIONALLY BY UNCTAD (E.G., ON GREEN SECURITY PAPER, IN SAME FORMAT).

3. FYI. THE FORM A USED FOR GSP CERTIFICATION--AND REQUIRED BY ALL GSP PROGRAMS--WAS APPROVED FOR USE BY THE

UNCTAD--OF WHICH SOMALIA A MEMBER--SO THAT THERE WOULD BE ONE INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED FORM FOR GSP PURPOSES, AND THUS LESS CHANCE OF CONFUSION AND FRAUD. AS A RESULT, U.S. CUSTOMS UNABLE TO ACCEPT THE FORM PRINTED IN SOMALIA WHICH DOES NOT CONFORM TO THESE INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED STANDARDS. END FYI.

4. CUSTOMS HAS SUGGESTED TO IMPORTER THAT EITHER HE OR SOMALI EXPORTER SUPPLY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WITH CORRECT UNCTAD FORM A SO THAT SHIPMENTS CAN BE GRANTED GSP DUTY-FREE TREATMENT. ANOTHER, MORE PERMANENT SOLUTION, MIGHT BE FOR SOMALI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AS CERTIFYING AUTHORITY, TO PROCURE SMALL NUMBER OF FORMS FROM SOURCE MENTIONED REFTEL, AND THEN CHARGE EXPORTER COST OF FORM WHEN ISSUING IT. (EXPORTER WOULD PRESUMABLY NOT RESIST NOMINAL CHARGE SINCE RESULT WILL BE NO U.S. DUTIES UNDER GSP.)

5. POST SHOULD ADVISE CHAMBER OF U.S. CUSTOMS INABILITY TO ACCEPT SOMALI FORM. IN FUTURE, SHIPMENTS OF GSP ELIGIBLE PRODUCTS CERTIFIED BY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SHOULD BE CERTIFIED ON UNCTAD APPROVED FORM A. VANCE

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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: ETRD, SO
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